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*Agelaius phoeniceus*. In my account of this bird I gave after the description some account of the various prevailing views of authorities on the difficult question of the subspecies of Red-winged Blackbirds in the state.

*Loxia curvirostra*. I was much struck by the great size of the bill of the pair of Crossbills obtained by Aiken in El Paso County. I felt that they must be referred to the larger form known as *L. c. stricklandi*. I see no reason why in the case of a great wanderer like the Crossbill the Mexican form should not stray as far north as Colorado along the Rocky Mountains.

*Astragalinus psaltria*. I have not come across any "conclusive proof" that the three forms of this goldfinch are color phases due to age. In the typical form generally found throughout Colorado the back is olive green, in the Mexican form the back is black; but I see no evidence that the Colorado subspecies eventually with age becomes black. I think the occasional occurrence of the more southern Mexican form in Colorado is quite conceivable.

*Protonotaria citrea*. I understood from Mr. Felger that he was quite satisfied that this species had occurred in Colorado.

Of the fifteen birds included by Mr. Cooke in his list, but omitted by me, eleven are mentioned and discussed in the text, though not admitted to the formal list; but I must plead guilty to omitting *Phalaropus fulicarius*, while it would perhaps have been more logical to admit the Pheasant if the English Sparrow is included.

Finally Mr. Cooke mentions a number of birds which I have excluded from my list of breeding birds. In drawing up my list I purposely did not include birds which have only been recorded from the state on one or two occasions; these were placed in the list of casals. I have not kept birds in the breeding list, although seen several times in summer, unless very definite evidence of breeding is forthcoming.

Yours, etc.,

W. L. SCLATER.

London; September 6, 1912.

#### INTRODUCED BIRDS OF NEW ZEALAND

Editor THE CONDOR:

Today I received a copy of THE CONDOR, which you were kind enough to send me, and I read with deep interest your remarks on the Chaffinch at Monterey. I quite agree with your note of warning in regard to this English bird. From the very unfortunate experiences we have had in New Zealand, I can say without hesitation that people in your country ought to exercise the utmost

care in regard to English birds that are brought in.

I am an ardent bird-lover—I love them all, even those with the most objectionable characters—but I must confess that many of the English "interlopers," to use your own word, have proved disastrous failures in this country.

This is the case with some birds which were brought here purely in a spirit of sentiment, notably the skylark, the song-thrush, and the black-bird. They are great pests. We now have a law here prohibiting the importation of any foreign birds without the sanction of a Minister of the Crown. The latest attempt in this direction is the Little Grey Owl (*Athene noctua*), which was brought here to deal with the sparrow and other small birds previously introduced, and which, I am afraid, will have a bad effect on our interesting native avifauna, which, late in the day, we are making a frantic effort to preserve.

Yours truly,

JAS. DRUMMOND.

Christchurch, N. Z.; July 17, 1912.

#### THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATED SOCIETIES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF WILD LIFE.

The following is a copy of a letter recently sent out to the officials of eleven organizations in the State of California:

"Dear Sir:

"It is urgent that vigorous action be taken immediately if it is desired to save the remnant of wild life yet remaining in the State of California. Many native species are suffering a rapid decrease in numbers through several causes, while the ranks of the Army of Destruction receive constant augmentation year by year.

"The Committee on Conservation of Wild Life of the Cooper Ornithological Club (Northern Division) is convinced that the formation of a centralized organization would be beneficial to the cause of saving this natural resource, and hereby asks your society to consider the advisability of the formation of such an association. We therefore request answers to the following questions:

"(1) Do you favor an intelligent conservation policy with regard to wild life, that the best interests of the farmer, sportsman, nature-lover, and citizen be guarded?

"(2) If so, would your organization be able and willing to be represented at a meeting to be held soon in this vicinity (San Francisco Bay region) to consider the most effective method of securing enlightened legislation along this line?

"Inclosed find list of societies with whom we are communicating as well as a tentative constitution for the associated societies.

"We hope that you may give this matter as early consideration as is convenient, and that you will be able to support the movement."

In this way your committee has taken up a larger work for the native fauna than has hitherto been attempted. The societies addressed are, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, California Academy of Sciences, Biological Society of the Pacific Coast, Los Angeles Zoological Society, Tamalpais Conservation Club, Great Fish and Game Protective Association, California Game and Fish Protective Association, Paleontological Society of the Pacific Coast, and the State Humane Association. There has been cordial response in nearly every case. Only one organization so far, has not favored the move, namely, the California Game and Fish Protective Association. The two organizations named last have not been heard from. The first six have promised their support, and the first four, as well as the Cooper Club will certainly be represented at the organization meeting. It is not unlikely that every one of the above associations, with the exception mentioned, will ultimately affiliate with the new organization.

The immense possibilities of accomplishment along the lines of better game laws and increased publicity of game matters will be apparent. The Associated Societies will start with a membership of between one and two thousand, including many of the most high-minded and influential conservators in the State.

The organization meeting is to be held early in November in the San Francisco Bay region.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN W. MAILLIARD

H. W. CARRIGER

H. C. BRYANT

J. S. HUNTER

W. P. TAYLOR, *Chairman.*

Committee on Conservation of Wild Life  
(Northern Division).

COPY OF LETTER AND RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION BY THE COOPER CLUB THROUGH ITS COMMITTEES ON CONSERVATION OF WILD LIFE

*Berkeley, Calif., Aug. 26, 1912.*

*California Fish and Game Commission,*

*734 Mills Bldg.,*

*San Francisco, Calif.*

Gentlemen:

We submit herewith a list of recommendations as regards new legislation which seems to us would be desirable. We are continually impressed with the necessity for haste in se-

curing enlightened game laws if we are to preserve the remnant of wild life within the state. We feel that California should learn from the experience of other states and commonwealths that, in these matters particularly, a look to the future is necessary. The non-game birds, the game-birds, the fur-bearing mammals, and the food-fishes constitute an immense asset to the state, financially and esthetically. We believe in a progressive policy along the lines of wild-life conservation, and hope that these suggestions may be of some value.

We advocate above all things the passage of a non-sale of game law, for we believe that in this lies the future of some of our best game birds.

We may define our general attitude as being in favor of further restrictions where necessary to the welfare of wild species. "The wild life of today is not wholly ours, to dispose of as we please. It has been given to us *in trust*. We must account for it to those who come after us and audit our records."

Finally, we take this opportunity of expressing our confidence in the State Fish and Game Commission, and trust that we may be able to co-operate with it in the work of wild life conservation. Respectfully submitted,

Cooper Ornithological Club, by Committee  
(Northern Division) on Conservation of Wild Life.

H. W. CARRIGER

JOHN W. MAILLIARD

H. C. BRYANT

J. S. HUNTER

W. P. TAYLOR, *Chairman.*

*Whereas*, to the best of our knowledge many game birds and mammals have been greatly reduced in numbers during the past few years, and

*Whereas*, certain birds and mammals in this state are known to be approaching extinction, and

*Whereas*, certain birds and mammals known as game are of such inestimable value to the agriculturist and horticulturist that it is to our interest to protect them, we recommend the following new laws and amendments:

1. A law prohibiting the sale in California of American-killed ducks.
2. A law prohibiting the use of automatic guns and silencers.
3. The abolition of the game districts as at present outlined within the State and, if necessary, a redistricting according to life zones and faunal areas.
4. The shortening of the season on certain game birds and the placing of certain birds now considered game birds on the protected list.